

points. Chapter II describes the methods of the bird photographer. The suggestions given here are offered as hints to the bird photographer, and serve to show what an endless amount of patience and ingenuity are necessary to secure good results.

Hitherto much has been accomplished in the direction of photographing nests and eggs, and in some cases the young birds, but the author of the present volume is the pioneer in this country to attempt making a collection of actual photographs of adult birds with the object of contributing toward their biography. A knowledge of the bird's habits is necessary to successful bird photography, and many details of the daily life of the subject must necessarily be forced upon the student who attempts to portray them. Bird photography, as practised by the author of the present volume, therefore becomes a most instructive teacher of the ornithologist; and many facts will be recorded while engaged in its pursuit, the existence of which might otherwise have escaped notice.

The remaining chapters are devoted to life histories of the species treated. Mr. Chapman's field experiences are charmingly written, and the reader cannot fail to express a desire from time to time that he might have been permitted to actually witness the scenes related.

The numerous magnificent half-tones with which these pages are illustrated—showing in some instances different stages of growth from the downy young to the adult birds—have never been surpassed. Many of these pictures, while they give evidence of the greatest photographic skill, are especially noteworthy because of their scientific interest.

How invaluable would be a series of good photographs of the Great Auk, clustered as they once were in all their abundance on Funk Island? Or one of the immense flocks of Wild Pigeons passing across the sky as in years past. In place of these we must be content with humble description. But through the medium of the present volume, the species treated—the great masses of cliff-nesting water-birds on the Bird Rocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the armies of Brown Pelicans on their native strand in their Florida home—will be seen by future generations of bird-lovers as they exist at the present time.

Aside from its popular interest to those who wish to get near to nature, this volume cannot be too highly commended for its scientific value; and the photographs of the bird colonies as here depicted, will forever remain monuments to Mr. Chapman's skill as a photographer and as an indefatigable ornithologist.—J. R.

**Farr's Check List of New York Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—This List was originally prepared by Dr. Farr for use in collecting data for a 'Bulletin' on the birds

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<sup>1</sup> Check List of New York Birds. By Marcus S. Farr, D. Sc. Bulletin of the New York State Museum, No. 35, Vol. VII. Albany: University of the State of New York, 1900. 8vo, pp. 193-409. Price, 25 cents.

of New York, a work now well under way and likely to prove a very important publication. It is Dr. Farr's intention "to include all the birds known to occur or to have occurred in our State, and only those forms have been admitted that have actually been taken in New York." As thus limited the list includes 380 indigenous and 4 introduced species, and is followed by a 'Hypothetical List' of 17 species which are likely to occur from their having been taken in adjoining States. The list has been made up with great care and discretion, and shows that the author has his work thoroughly in hand. It is printed on only one side of the paper, leaving the opposite page and wide spaces between the species for annotations, which will prove a great convenience to those wishing to add their own annotations. Dr. Farr states that any corrections or additions to the list will be gratefully received. In the present list the annotations are limited to the rare or accidental species, and consist of footnotes citing the place of record for their occurrence. — J. A. A.

Palmer on Legislation for the Protection of Birds.<sup>1</sup>—This is a very important and timely publication in the interest of bird protection. It serves to show how imperfect and crude most legislation has hitherto been, and clearly points out the necessity for a more uniform and more efficient system of bird laws for the different States and Territories of the United States and the Canadian Provinces. As Dr. Palmer says, "the protection of birds is a national, not a local, question. It deals largely with migratory species which breed in one section, winter in another, and traverse several States in passing to and from their breeding grounds." While absolute uniformity may be unattainable, it "seems to be feasible to secure a much greater degree of uniformity than at present exists." Dr. Palmer has done much to pave the way for this by exposing the defects of present laws on the subject and pointing out how they may be immensely improved. Notwithstanding the increased interest shown of late years in the subject, and the growing sentiment in favor of bird protection, both from economic and æsthetic considerations, still, as Dr. Palmer says, "bird destruction is going on rapidly in the United States, and in many regions there is a marked decrease in the abundance of certain species. Cheap guns, lax laws, the mania for collecting and shooting, and more especially the enormous demand for birds for market and for the millinery trade, are responsible for this reduction in bird life."

Dr. Palmer's brochure is divided into three parts. Part I is entitled

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<sup>1</sup> Legislation for the Protection of Birds other than Game Birds. By T. S. Palmer, Assistant Chief, Biological Survey. Prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Biological Survey. Bulletin No. 12, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 8vo. pp. 94, 2 pll. and 8 text figures.